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Día de los Muertos Exhibition and Celebration

A community celebration and exhibition of joyous remembrance at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art

October 9, 2023 (Fort Wayne, IN) – The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is pleased to present “Día de los Muertos.” **on view now through November 5, 2023.** Artists, families, and community groups around the region were invited to honor a lost loved one or another important figure by constructing an altar in the museum.

Ancient civilizations throughout Latin America honored death as an essential part of life. After the Spanish conquest of Mexico, these rituals merged with Catholic observances of All Saints’ and All Souls’ Days. Modern Day of the Dead celebrations blend both cultures and continue to evolve, adapting new traditions as the holiday grows in popularity on both sides of the border.

The FWMoA exhibition features memorial altars, or ofrendas, places to leave offerings so the souls of the departed might find their way home and be nourished upon their arrival. Symbolic objects like sugar skulls, candles, colorful cut-tissue paper banners, bold marigolds, and monarch butterflies fill a gallery in celebration. Evolving from altars built in the home to honor deceased loved ones, altars in public spaces are often constructed in remembrance of those who have died for a cause or as a result of injustice.

To celebrate, the public is invited to join in a day of fun with the family celebrating at the **Día de los Muertos Family Celebration on Sunday, November 5 from 2-6pm.** Guests will enjoy the gallery exhibition, traditional dancing, children’s activities, mariachi, folkloric characters, complimentary baked goods, cash bar, and Mexican food truck with items for purchase. The Celebration is free and open to the public.

FWMoA will also be hosting a free public lecture with **Pedro Guillermo Ramon Celis**, a Doctoral Candidate in Anthropology at INdiana University and Teaching Fellow at Purdue University Fort Wayne who will give his talk, “**Living with the Ancestors: Day of the Dead Celebrations in Mexico**” on **Thursday, November 2 at 6:30pm.** Celis will explore the vibrant Día de los Muertos celebration’s rich cultural background by exploring its history, symbolism, and contemporary significance. He will elaborate on the unique blend of indigenous traditions and Catholicism that has given rise to this one-of-a-kind cultural event.

Día de los Muertos at FWMoA is sponsored by Partners 1st Federal Credit Union and the Edward D. and Lone Auer Foundation.

General admission to see this exhibition at the museum is free for FWMoA members, \$10 adults, \$8 students and seniors 65+, and \$25 for families. General admission is free for everyone on Thursdays 5-8pm. Veterans, active military personnel, and their families receive free general admission. FWMoA gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10-6pm, Thursdays 10-8pm, and Sundays 12-5pm.

About the Fort Wayne Museum of Art:

Beginning with art classes in 1888 given by J. Ottis Adams and later William Forsyth, the Fort Wayne Museum of Art is now the third largest art museum in INdiana. Regularly exhibiting regional and nationally acclaimed

artists, the FWMoA also boasts a collection of 7,700 objects of American and international art from the 18th century to today. The Museum is committed to the collection, preservation, presentation, and interpretation of American and related art to engage broad and diverse audiences throughout the community and region and add value to their lives. The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. This activity made possible, in part, with support from the InDiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

For more information, visit www.fwmoa.org.